



RAN RADIO MECHANICS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 67 – 31ST JULY, 2008

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EDITORIAL

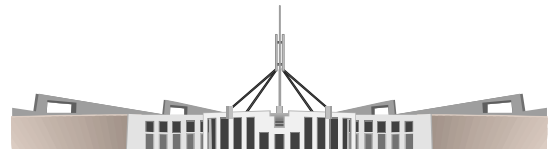
In this newsletter you will find:

- An update on our forthcoming 9th National Reunion to be held in Canberra, ACT in October/November, 2008 – not too far away!
- Further reports on the sad loss of a number of our colleagues.
- News from our various Groups within Australia and Overseas.
- The status of the Inquiry into the loss of the WW2 Cruiser, HMAS Sydney.
- A number of items of general interest.

For those people intending to be at our forthcoming 9th National Reunion in Canberra and have not as yet submitted their “Booking Sheet” please do so without delay to assist the Reunion Committee in finalising details with the various venues and coach transport company.

We would love to see a maximum attendance from our ACT colleagues and urge you to consider attending at least the Meet & Greet and the Official Dinner. You also could consider participating in some of the events which, although on your doorstep you may not have ever visited those places because you know you can whenever you choose, but, just don't get around to it! Now is your chance to participate with a great group of people and make it a maximum enjoyable time!

The drought has still been hanging on and the Murray/Darling River Basin is in a more desperate plight than ever! We can't make it rain but we live in hope. For this reason it is already too late for some farmers; grape growers and fruit growers who are seriously considering abandoning their properties that have been in their families for generations! The lower lakes in the Murray River are at death's door! We can now only hope for late rains which at least will help save the river system.



OUR 9TH NATIONAL REUNION, 2008

The RAN RADIO MECHANICS ASSOCIATION 9TH NATIONAL REUNION is arranged to be held in Canberra from Tuesday, 28th October, 2008 through to Sunday, 2nd November, 2008. A very entertaining and interesting programme has been arranged to ensure that everyone attending will have an enjoyable time.

With Newsletter No. 65 were included various Reunion Attachments covering the Reunion Programme in detail, with costs, as well as an Accommodation Sheet and a Booking Sheet for the various Reunion Events. A revised Booking Sheet was enclosed with Newsletter No. 66.

If anyone needs replacement Reunion Programmes, Booking Sheets or Accommodation Sheets, then, contact John Saywell without delay:

Telephone: (08) 8344 1554

Email: jssaywell@optusnet.com.au

Attendees select the events they wish to participate in, as it is not a requirement that everyone has to be in every event. So, it is up to the individual as to their maximum and minimum selection of events by marking the “Booking Sheet” accordingly.

The Reunion Programme follows our general well proven formula of:

- Registration followed by a Meet & Greet Evening
- A formal Official Dinner with a Guest Speaker.
- A farewell BBQ.
- A mixture of interesting tours and visits
- Opportunity to sample Canberra's Clubs and night life during evenings.
- Advice of DIY tours and visits
- Advice on accommodation.

When having our Meet and Greet at the Canberra Business Events Centre, the venue management has offered to open a Special Exhibition Room depicting the planning and development of Canberra – some of the displays are interactive. We gladly accepted this offer!

At our Official Dinner, Jon Stanhope, the Chief Minister, ACT will give an Address, welcoming us to the ACT. Our Guest Speaker during the dinner will be Commodore Drew McKinnie DGMSS who recognises that the RAN Radio Mechanics are close cousins to the present day Weapons Electrical Engineering Officers and the Electronic Technicians.

Please note that the Reunion Transport during the reunion will operate to and from the two selected "Nominated Hotels", which are The Brassey Hotel and The Forrest Inn.

The booking of accommodation and travel to and from the reunion in Canberra and payment thereof is the sole responsibility of the reunion attendee. We recommend the "Nominated" accommodation; however, you may select whatever accommodation that suits you. But, bear in mind the benefits of being co-located with other Reunion Attendees and the fact that the Reunion arranged Coach/Bus transport will only operate to and from the "Nominated" hotels in association with attending the reunion events/functions.

The Reunion Committee reserves its right to cancel, or modify, any or all events/functions/tours/visits if found necessary, for whatever reason. At this stage we do not envisage that action being necessary.

	<u>REMEMBER</u>
<u>WHERE:</u>	CANBERRA, ACT
<u>WHEN:</u>	TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 2008 to SUNDAY, 2 NOVEMBER, 2008
<u>SUGGESTION:</u>	COMBINE IT WITH A HOLIDAY AND MAKE IT A MOST MEMORABLE TIME!

The 9th National Reunion Committee

Roslyn (Ros) Crawley - Conference Convenor
Jim Little - ACT Convenor
John Bannister - Treasurer

Jim Little will answer questions relating to the Reunion – His contact details are:

Tel: 02 6288 7462

Email: jlittle@actewagl.net.au

The preferred method for questions would be by using Email.

John Bannister, the Treasurer will handle all reunion Receipts, Payments and Refunds. His contact details are:

Address: 6 Tilley Court, Marion, SA 5043

Tel: 08 8298 1855

Email: johnban@adam.com.au

Moir & John Saywell will assist as necessary. Contact details:

Tel: 08 8344 1554

Email: jssaywell@optusnet.com.au

The next Newsletter is intended to be datelined 30th September, 2008 in which we will provide any late Reunion news.



DONATIONS

Since our last newsletter we have received donations from those named below:-

Adrian Bryant, Dennis Clem, Bill Cooper, John Crawley, Les Fox, Kevin Gleeson, Alf Haurat, Ron Jemesen, Kev Koschel, Garth Langhorne, Jack McLean, Dan O'Keeffe, Ray Sommerville, John Wade and Robin Wood.

Thank you everyone for your generosity, it is very much appreciated.

We keep our costs to an absolute minimum with our volunteer organisation bearing personally a measure of the running expenses. For this we are grateful for their dedication and generosity.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS/ ADDITIONS



When advising of your address changes it is of great assistance to us if you also advise of changes to your telephone/fax/mobile telephone/e-mail addresses as well - if not known initially then please let us know as soon as possible. It all helps to make life a little easier! Recent changes/additions of address notified to us are:-

Dick Coyle – moved from Syndal to Brighton in Victoria.

Gary Hale – has moved from Elizabeth Downs to Paralowie in South Australia.

Ern Kelly – moved from Riverside Gardens, Douglas to North Ward, Townsville.

Vic Mandic – Moved from Willetton to Canning Vale in Western Australia.

Jack Reid – moved from Dunbogan to Port Macquarie, NSW.

Please keep us informed of your changes of addresses, and also update us with your telephone numbers, Fax and Email etc. If you note any incorrect details on our mailing labels please inform John Saywell.

MAIL RETURNED/NON DELIVERY

Unfortunately a number of Newsletter mailouts are returned for a number of reasons. Sometimes this is simply because the addressee has overlooked informing us of a change of address. On other occasions it has more ominous overtones—we are always concerned if we are unable to determine the reason behind the return of mail. So, please keep us informed of address changes. We will welcome any help in locating or learning more about the people subject to mail returns.

We have had two “mail returns” from Newsletter No. 66:

<u>Vic Mandic</u>	Returned from Canning Vale, WA.
<u>Les Sykes</u>	Returned from Nowra, NSW – Left address.



NEW FINDS

We are always pleased to advise of some “New Finds” and we welcome them “back to the fold” and hope they will enjoy the renewed contact with old mates.

We welcome **Barry Lemmon** who was a Radio Electrical Mechanic 1st Class, O/No. R51503 and served in the RAN from 12th December, 1955 until 8th December, 1962 and then served five years in the Royal Australian Fleet Reserve with O/No. 9446.

Barry served in HMAS Cerberus, Sydney, Watson, Gascoyne and Kuttabul (in Port Radio Staff). In HMAS Gascoyne, Barry was awarded Higher Duties Allowance.

Please, any of our readers, if you are able to provide contact addresses, leads, names, preferably with given names/initials of “ex Radio Mechanics” please pass this information on to John Saywell - his contact details can be found at the head and tail of this newsletter. In the end, we will respect anyone’s wish as to whether or not they choose to be involved with us - we simply want to be able to make them aware that ‘we’ exist!



IN MEMORIUM

It is with regret we report the sad passing of a number of our colleagues:

- **James Patrick (Jim) Cunneen** passed away peacefully, at home, in Henley Beach, SA on Saturday, 12th July, 2008. Jim’s health had deteriorated over a lengthy period but he had retained his sense of humour until the end! Jim was born at Burra, SA on 29th April, 1928 being the fourth child

of Michael and Florence Cunneen; Jim, together with elder brother and two sisters grew up on a property near Booborowie in South Australia.

Jim’s father died in 1939 and so his mother and siblings moved to North Adelaide where Jim won a scholarship and attended Christian Brothers College.

Among Jim’s interests included middle distance running with CBC and the Harriers Running Club. At age 17 years Jim entered for the City to Bay run which he won by 12 yards in 1945! Jim attributed his success in this event to the fact that a lot of the top competitors who might have been normally in the run were otherwise occupied, fighting a war! On 7th May, 1946 Jim joined the RAN as an Ordinary Seaman Radio Mechanic and was allocated Official Number 30432 (later changed to A30432 and again, later, to R30432).

After his initial training at HMAS Cerberus, Jim was drafted to HMAS Torrens (Port Adelaide) for Radio Mechanic Technical Training at the Adelaide School of Mines and Industries. On completion of that course Jim was Rated as Radio Mechanic. Immediately thereafter followed further intensive technical training at HMAS Watson (South Head, Sydney) and at HMAS Harman (Canberra, ACT – Belconnen Tx Station and the Receiving Station Systems near Queanbeyan). At the completion of that training Jim was rated Leading Radio Mechanic (W/T). Drafts then followed to Watson, Harman, Kuttabul and Lonsdale before selection for a Conversion Course to the Fleet Air Arm in the United Kingdom to commence late 1949.

Whilst in the UK Jim was allocated to HMA London Depot, HMS Ariel and HMS Daedalus. He travelled in civilian ships to and from the UK.

On return to Australia, now in the Fleet Air Arm, Jim served at HMAS Albatross (Royal Australian Naval Air Station, Nowra), HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Albatross/816 Squadron, HMAS Sydney and HMAS Vengeance – the latter two being aircraft carriers.

In 1955 Jim was despatched to the UK, once again, this time in the passenger liner “Orion”. In the UK he was to be sent off to be trained in the technical aspects associated with the Fairey Gannet Anti-submarine aircraft then being taken delivery of and to join 816 Squadron on its re-formation in the UK. The technical training included communication, radar equipment and sono-buoys. Jim then joined 816 Squadron and the new aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne.

On the way to the UK whilst a passenger in the “Orion” Jim met Thelma Freeman from New Zealand travelling with her brother, Eddie, to the UK

on a working holiday. A romance blossomed and after both Jim and Thelma had returned to the Antipodes they were married in New Zealand on 15th December, 1956. Thelma and Jim then settled in Frankston, Victoria while Jim completed his RAN engagement, then as a Chief Radio Electrician (Air) and on Instructional Duties at the Electrical School, HMAS Cerberus. Earlier, in 1956, Jim had disembarked from HMAS Melbourne with 816 Squadron and was located at RANAS Nowra (HMAS Albatross). Jim completed his engagement with the RAN on 6th May, 1958.

Post RAN Jim joined IBM to commence a new career in Computer Engineering which spanned the next 29 years. Jim and Thelma moved to Henley Beach, Adelaide, South Australia; a family developed during this period with the arrival of Terry in November, 1957, Ross in 1959, Gillian in 1961, Peter in 1963, Danny in 1965 and Robyn in 1972.

Two years of Jim's IBM career was spent in Sydney where Jim was a member of IBM's Asia Pacific Specialist Group. Jim, Thelma and the family enjoyed some time in the UK on one of Jim's IBM exploits. Other IBM tasks saw Jim and Thelma in Japan and the USA. Jim retired from IBM on 12th July, 1987.

In retirement Jim will be remembered for his behind-the-scenes activities in coaching school football teams, running raffles, helping at working bees, fund raising and work at the Henley and Grange Swimming Club.

Jim was an avid SANFL supporter of the Sturt Football Club, a first class arm-chair cricketer and a very sociable mate to many! He was a dedicated Dad and Grandad.

Jim is survived by his wife, Thelma, of more than 51 years, children, Terry, Ross, Gillian, Peter, Danny and Robyn as well as grandchildren, Adrian, Nathan, Caitlan and Brianna.

- **Kevin Bernard Egan** – passed away, peacefully, in the Phillip Kennedy Centre, Largs Bay, Adelaide, SA on 26th June, 2008 at age 78 years. Kevin's health had deteriorated over the past couple of years, however, he coped positively throughout this period and was highly respected by the staff at the Centre.

Kevin was born in Sydney on 7th February, 1930 and completed his Primary Schooling at St. Benedicts in Chippendale and won a Bursary for his Marist Brothers Secondary Technical College full-time training. He matriculated from Marist Brothers College in 1946.

At age 18 years, Kevin enlisted in the RAN on 8th April, 1948 acquiring Official Number 35968 (later changed to R35968). Kevin was inducted into the RAN at HMAS Rushcutter, Sydney and then sent to HMAS Cerberus for Recruit Training as a Recruit (LB). Next he was allocated to the Electrical School, at Cerberus, for a Technical Electrical Course. All of Kevin's colleagues on that course were older than Kevin and they, affectionately, bequeathed him the nickname of "Junior" which survived his years in the Navy and for the rest of his life!

On completion of Kevin's first phase of technical training he was Rated Radio Electricians Mate 2nd Class, however, the facilities required for the next phase of technical training at the HMAS Cerberus Electrical School were not completed and running behind schedule. Kevin and his fellow class members were quickly despatched to Adelaide and HMAS Torrens (Port Adelaide) for Radio Technical Training at the Adelaide School of Mines and Industries – now part of the University of South Australia.

The next phase of Kevin's technical training was conducted at the HMAS Watson, South Head, Sydney Radio/Radar School. Next, on 30th August, 1949, Kevin was drafted to the aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney, for on-the-job training. Kevin was Rated REM 1st Class whilst in HMAS Sydney. Then it was off to the Shore Wireless Stations in Canberra (HMAS Harman) where he was Rated Acting Leading Radio Electricians Mate before being drafted to HMAS Melville in the Northern Territory. Next, further sea time followed in HMAS Quadrant, an anti-submarine frigate before being despatched back to HMAS Cerberus and a Qualifying Technical Course before being Confirmed as a LREM and qualifying technically as a Petty Officer Radio Electrician.

In the 1950s the RAN provided a number of personnel to assist with Guided Weapons activities at the Weapons Research Establishment's Guided Weapons Range at Woomera, South Australia. In 1955 Kevin was despatched to HMAS Torrens for work at the WRE Rocket Range, Woomera on Experimental Guided Weapons Radar. He completed his RAN Service in 1956 and then served for a further five years in the Royal Australian Fleet Reserve until 1961.

Following his RAN Service, Kevin undertook employment in the electronics industry with RATEL Industries, Marion Radio and AWA (Marine) Ltd at Port Adelaide before establishing and successfully operating a number of small businesses including a Delicatessen, a Printing Business and a Wholesale Confectionery/Warehouse.

After developing heart problems and having a multiple bypass operation in 1981 followed by another bypass operation a year later Kevin took things a little quieter and operated a business called Candy Castle located in the Parade at Norwood in South Australia.

Kevin retired at age 57 years in 1987, bought a caravan and he and his wife Nadean took to the road with gusto! They travelled around Australia, to Darwin twice, crossed the Nullarbor on a number of occasions – true “Grey Nomads”!

Kevin was an ardent SANFL and AFL Crows supporter and this is not surprising when you realise that he was father-in-law of Malcolm Blight, Coach of the Adelaide Crows in their back-to-back Premierships and many other SANFL and AFL achievements of note!

Kevin and his wife Nadean were married at St. Marys, Port Adelaide on 10th April, 1950 and so shared over 58 years of happy marriage together and had three daughters, Joan, Patsy and Susie.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Nadean and was father, father-in-law, Granpa and Great Granpa of Joan, Lee, Paul, Tiandra and Blake; Patsy, Malcolm, Adam, Dhana, Asha, Melanie and Damian; Susie, Craig, Sam and Courtney.

- **James Henry Jones**, we note was listed in the “Last Post” of the NSW RSL Publication “Reveille” in their most recent issue. James was not listed in our membership and so we have no details of his decease or his prior whereabouts etc. We do know that his RAN Official Number was R50969, his date of birth was 24th July, 1937, his place of birth was Ipswich, Qld and that he joined the RAN on 15th April, 1955 and served as a Radio Electrical Mechanic until his D.E.E. on 27th July, 1961. He served in Cerberus, Moreton, Queenborough, Penguin, Melbourne (aircraft carrier) and Harman.
- **George Thompson Telfer** – on 10th June, 2008 in Brisbane, Queensland at age 70 years. George was in hospital prior to his decease having had health problems for a number of years; he attended our National Reunion in Caloundra in 2004 and although he then required continuous oxygen he was full of enthusiasm and good spirits! He maintained a positive attitude to the end!

George was born at Nambour, Queensland on 9th October, 1937 and joined the RAN on 27th April, 1956 for a period of six years as a Recruit (Electrical Mechanic) and allocated O/No. R51934. During George’s technical training at HMAS Cerberus Electrical School he was selected to become a Radio Electrical Mechanic (Air) 2nd Class. After further

technical training George was Rated Radio Electrical Mechanic (Air) 1st Class.

Whilst completing his RAN Engagement George served in HMAS Cerberus, Moreton, Lonsdale, Albatross and HMAS Melbourne Air Group. George had Operational Service in the Far East Strategic Reserve whilst serving in HMAS Melbourne. He completed his six years RAN Engagement on 8th July, 1962 and returned to “Civvy Street”.

George re-entered the RAN on 6th October, 1964 for a further six years engagement – as the titles had changed whilst he was in “Civvy Street” he now found himself as an Electrical Mechanic Air Communications i.e. an EMAC. George underwent a refresher technical course and then joined HMAS Albatross/817 Squadron. During his second six years engagement his service largely alternated between HMAS Albatross and the aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne. By May, 1967 George had been confirmed as a Leading Electrical Mechanic Air Communications. In 1969 George had a short stint at RAAF, Edinburgh, South Australia at which time he was serving in RAN 851 Squadron. George once again returned to “Civvy Street”, on 5th October, 1970.

After leaving the RAN George worked in the Aviation Industry both in Australia and overseas where he became Operational Manager in work associated with the Oil and Gas off-shore activities.

George is survived by his wife “Tessie” and children Thomas, Wendy, Helen, Theresa and Greg and Grandfather of Lukas.

A Celebration of George’s life was held at the Pinnaroo Crematorium Chapel, Graham Road, Bridgeman Downs, Queensland on Saturday, 14th June, 2008 at 10.00am. The service was very well attended by his relatives, friends, former work colleagues as well as ex RAN Radio Mechanics, Fleet Air Arm members, Vietnam Veterans and RSL Members

*We extend our deepest sympathy to the families.
Lest we forget!*

BELCONNEN ROO CULL

We understand that the Belconnen Roo Cull mentioned in Newsletter No. 66 is now complete. As it cost \$1,000/kangaroo and there were 500 kangaroos culled in the exercise the overall cost was a cool \$0.5 million!

All those people who got hopping mad about this event have now bounded off on to another crusade!



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GROUP NEWS

We held our regular BBQ get-together at the Swan Yacht Club on Sunday, 8th June, 2008. The weather was magnificent as usual. Our numbers were down due to wind, tide, grey nomads and other commitments. Sadly a few were laid up with one thing or another.

Twenty loyal attendees included:

Reg & Margaret Doran with daughter Lee, Bob & Lynn Flett, Max & Eileen Garth, Allen & Elaine Hoskins, Kevin & Rae Ingram, Betty Marshall, Denis & Maree Norriss, Vic & Gwenda Rann, Ron & Barbara Rowe, Alan & Ophelia Wotzko.

Apologies were received from:

Don & Barbara Duncan, Jack & Jenny Duperouzel, Brian Evans (down with a cold), Kev & Val Gleeson (visiting Darwin), Ross & Heather Hewitt, Steve & Margaret Llewellyn, Lyle O'Meagher (not well), Jim & Maree Preston (AWOL again), Colin & Bev Benporath, Les & Pauline Fox, Roy & Maureen Jewell, Trevor & Jan Leggo (still away) Keith & Doris Taylor (on Birdie duties) and Bill McAllister.

It was nice to see Kevin & Rae Ingram again. Also Allan & Ophelia Wotzko who made the journey from Boyanup for the day.

Birthday boys toasted were Denis Norris (78) and Allan Wotzko (67) who celebrated their milestones just last week. The door prize was won by Allen Hoskins. Many thanks to Vic Rann and Denis Norriss for their culinary skills at the BBQ.

Our next meeting will be Sunday 28th September, 2008 followed by Sunday, 7th December, 2008.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Ron Rowe



**WA BBQ LUNCHEON
Sunday, 28th September, 2008
1130 for 1200 -1430**

**SWAN YACHT CLUB – EAST
FREMANTLE**

USUAL FARE

**REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME TAG
RSVP**

**Vic Rann – Tel: 08 9354 5529 or email
vicandgwen@optusnet.com.au**

Or

**Ron Rowe – Tel: 08 9295 0851 or email
rower@tadaust.org.au**



SA/NT GROUP NEWS

The SA/NT Group had another very successful Luncheon on Sunday, 15th June, 2008 at the Hampstead Hotel, Collinswood. There was much conversation whilst catching up with each other's news. We were very pleased to welcome John & Ros Crawley, visiting SA from the ACT. Present were:

Ron & Janice Akeroyd, John Bannister, Rod & Marlene Bannon, Kevin & Joan Bonney, Ken & Jo Bryant, Michael & Kathleen Cain, Sheila Campbell & Ron Hills, John & Ros Crawley, Pat & Julie Delavia, Isobel Downie, Nadean Egan, Sylvia Fielding, Alison Kerr, Glen & Barbara Lewis, Sid & Joan May, Tom & Dulcie Palmer, John & Moira Saywell, Greg & Nancy Sharp, Colin Shillabeer, Brian & Val Sweeney and Myra Tindal.

Apologies were received from:-

Joy Bannister, John & Joan Berry, Ray Bobridge, Jim & Thelma Cunneen, Kevin Egan, Gil & Laura Harrington, Archie & Meg McArthur, Bill Russack, Bill & Margaret Stevens, Phil & Shirley Sullivan, Neil & Sandra Walton, Dick & Jean Withers and Robin Wood.

Our thoughts and wishes are sent to those who are not enjoying the best of health at this time.

**Convenor: Kevin Bonney (08) 8337 3051
John Saywell (08) 8344 1554**



QUEENSLAND GROUP NEWS

John Macartney advises that his recovery following his earlier major surgery is coming along well and he and Sue celebrated with a trip to Norfolk Island which John said was very wet, very windy, very cold but very pretty! He reminisced that the last time he was at Norfolk Island was in 1963 when a couple of Sycamore helicopters were embarked on board HMAS Sydney and "they" took the Governor General to Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands.

Ron Hobba together with Frank & Judith Fox, Gavin & Molly McLean and Lindsay Brown attended the funeral of George Telfer (more details in the "In Memorium" section of this newsletter.

Ron Hobba

**Contacts: Convenor: Ron Hobba
7 Bloomfield Place, Carina, Qld 4152
Tel. No. (07) 3843 2207**

Email: ronandfred@bigpond.com

**Deputy Convenor: John Macartney
PO Box 689, Childers, Qld. 4660
Tel. No. (07) 4126 3445
Email: jrmaca@bigpond.com**



NEW SOUTH WALES GROUP NEWS

George Stevens, Vice President and NSW Convenor continues to improve healthwise and so other State activities still continue to take a back seat. George and Shirley will be attending the 9th National Reunion in Canberra later this year.

We have pleaded in the past for volunteers in NSW to step forward to assume the role of Group Convenor and Deputy Convenor, but, to date, not one volunteer! Please, "We Need You Now!", even more than ever. So, please volunteer to keep us on a steady course!

Contacts: George or Shirley Stevens:

Tel. No: (02) 9456 4007 email: gws@pacific.net.au

VICTORIA/TASMANIA GROUP NEWS

Our luncheon was held on 28th May, 2008, at the Dandenong RSL. This was a most enjoyable get-together with sixteen members attending.



Bruce & Sally Altson, Tim & Patricia Gloury, Kevin & Nina Mills, Jo Mowday, John Owen, Bryan Smith, Val Poppins, Ted Ramus, Ian Shackleton, Lofty & Sue Watson and Lorraine & John Laughton.

Apologies were received from:

Margaret Bail, Peter & Millie Barnes, Walter Bennett, Bill Brookes (Tas), Dennis & Nancy Campbell, Jack & Winsome Cations, Grace Davies, Rina Donald, Lofty Duncan, Alan & Fran Long, Elizabeth Fowler, Mick & Phyl George, Pat & Faye Hollywell, Joan Howden, David Innes, Jim Lane, Mike Novak, Ken & Marie Pryor and Clyde & Shirley Scaife.

It was heartening to have a few new attendees along and we hope to welcome them at our next luncheon. Those attendees were Jo Mowday, Tim & Patricia Gloury, John Owen and Bryan Smith. It was particularly pleasing to have Tim Gloury present, as older members will have known his father, John, who was considered to be "The Father of the RAN Radio Mechanics".

The proposed dates for meetings in 2008 are: **20th August and 19th November. Please put these dates in your diary and come and join us for a great lunch.**

Regards,

John Laughton



Our next luncheon will be held on Wednesday, 20th August, 2008, at the Dandenong RSL Club at 11.30am for a meeting prior to lunch.

Please advise your attendance to the contacts below.

Contacts:

John Laughton, 36 Tamarisk Road, Narre Warren, Vic. 3805. Tel. No. (03) 9704 7799; Mob. No. 0417 336 423; Email: johnfl@aapt.net.au or

Ian Shackleton, 254 Lawrence Rd, Mt. Waverley, Vic. 3149. Tel. No. (03) 9802 7694

Mick George, 10 Bruce Street, Laverton, Vic. 3028

Tel. No. 03 9369 5805; Mob No. 0401 583 319

Email: rickgeorge@optusnet.com.au



ACT GROUP NEWS

Ros Crawley and Jim Little continue to be occupied with matters associated with the forthcoming 9th National Reunion.

Jim Little mentions that he will need the assistance of some local ACT members with some not too onerous tasks during the Reunion. Any volunteers? Please contact Jim Little – his contact details are below.

We note that some of the ACT "locals" haven't as yet submitted a Booking Sheet; you are encouraged to attend at least one or two of the events. Consider attending the Meet and Greet &/or the Official Dinner. The tours and other events should have appeal in the company of our colleagues.

Contact:

Convenor: Jim Little, Tel. No. (02) 6288 7462

Email: jlittle@actewagl.net.au



USA/CANADA GROUP NEWS

No update has been received from the USA/Canada Group – we hope that everything is going okay for our members in that part of the world!

Contact: Les Figg, 583 Valeri Ruth Court, Santa Clare, California, USA 95050

Email: les_figg@comcast.net or lfigg@alacritech.com



UK GROUP NEWS

Arrangements are still progressing on the UK Group 2009 Reunion in Leicestershire in June, 2009. Watch this space for further details and any "Radio Mechanics" from Oz visiting the UK at the time of the UK Reunion will be particularly welcome to attend.

The ex RN – on loan to RAN Radio Mechanic now living in Australia is John Topliss (mentioned without name in Newsletter No. 66) - contact with him is being established.

Regards, **Tommy Joyce**

Contacts:

Convenor: Tommy Joyce, 16 Foxton Avenue,
Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, U.K. NE32AR
Telephone No. in the UK: 01912 843512

Email: thomas.joyce@o2.co.uk

Deputy Convenor: Ted Strauss

Telephone No. in the UK: 01453 542566

Email: ted_strauss@btinternet.com



SICK BAY

There are a number of our colleagues who have not been faring well of late and we send our special wishes for their well being and recovery.

Vic Rann our WA Deputy Convenor is in Murdoch Hospital and with determination he is making positive progress but still has a way to go.

We received some good news from Ron Melville, in Tasmania, that he has astounded his Oncologist with his progress following Chemo/Radiation treatment. Stay positive Ron!

We wish all our colleagues who are on the "Sick List" a quick and full recovery; we are all thinking of you!



RADAR TIME LINE

1887

Heinrich Hertz, the German physicist discovers that radio waves penetrate different materials.

1904

Christian Hulsmeyer first uses radio waves to detect the presence of distant metallic objects.

1917

Nikola Testa in *The Electrical Experimenter* sets down criteria for basic radar.

1934

The French CSF company takes out a patent for detecting obstacles by ultra-short wavelengths.

1935

Robert Watson-Watt publishes *The Detection of Aircraft by Radio Methods*. The success of the Daventry Experiment leads the Air Ministry to develop radar in the UK.

1936

The US Naval Research Laboratory demonstrates pulse radar successfully.

1938 - 1940

Ground Control Intercept Stations are set up in the UK.

1941

The term RADAR is coined as an acronym for Radio Detection and Ranging.

HMAS SYDNEY – COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

On 28th March, 2008, Air Chief Marshal A.G. Houston, AC, AFC, Chief of the Defence Force, appointed a Commission of Inquiry constituted by the Honourable T.R.H. Cole, AO, RFD, QC as President, to inquire into and report upon circumstances associated with the loss of HMAS Sydney (WW2 Cruiser) in November, 1941 and consequence loss of life and related events subsequent thereto.

A Notice appeared in the National Press of 24th May, 2008 calling for members of the public, individuals and organisations who have information and material relevant to the inquiry or who may wish to make submissions are requested to provide it directly to the Secretary of the HMAS Sydney II, Commission of Inquiry, Level 18, Defence Plaza, 270 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

A public sitting of the Commission of Inquiry was held on Friday, 30th May, 2008 and since then there has been on-going information gathering and submission preparation.

Further information is available on the Inquiry's website at www.defence.gov.au/Sydneyii/

Note: John Saywell has retrieved, from historical sources, quite a lot of information relating to the communications systems fit out of HMAS Sydney in the 1930s and passed on the data to a person who is expected to appear before the Commission to help resolve matters relating to HMAS Sydney II's wireless and D/F systems.

HMAS MONTEREY

Many Newsletters ago, under the heading, "CAN YOU HELP?" we included a plea asking if anyone knew of a WW2 Shore Establishment named "HMAS Monterey". We drew a blank! The publication, "RAN A-Z (Ships Aircraft and Shore Establishments)" did not list it!

Official history books recording the RAN's part in WW2 did not list HMAS Monterey amongst the WW2 Shore Establishments! Yet, at HMAS Cerberus in a Chapel memorial window is shown HMAS Monterey as a WW2 Shore Establishment!

In other information searches unrelated to HMAS Monterey we found instances of Cypher Officers in the WW2 Special Branch having been appointed to "Monterey" for Cypher Duties.

Further digging around reveals that originally the WW2 RAN Communications Intelligence Unit was located in Victoria Barracks. As activities increased the unit outgrew its home in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne and was relocated to the Monterey Apartments – still exists today at 17 Queens Road, opposite Albert Park Lake in Melbourne.

These days the Monterey Apartments are described as, "Classic art deco building, built in 1940, opposite Albert Park Lake and close to Fawkner Park and the Botanic Gardens".

In World War 2, the Monterey Apartments housed The Special Intelligence Bureau (RAN), The Directorate of Naval Communications (RAN) and the Analytical Section of FRUMEL (USN/RAN). Frumel was the Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne which was subordinate to the Commander of the USN 7th Fleet.

Commander J.B. (Jack) Newman was the Director of Signal Communications and established his Directorate on the ground floor of "Monterey". The last three letters of Newman's surname had provided the "man" of HMAS Harman in previous years! Post War Jack Newman became the Superintendent of the Weapons Research Establishment Rocket Range at Woomera, South Australia.

At "Monterey" during WW2, Security Guards were placed on duty around the building, security passes were needed to access the building and other security passes were required to go from one part of the building to another! The signals intercept site for FRUMEL was located at Moorabin, a Melbourne suburb.

In the course of this "diggings" exercise emerged another Shore Establishment name of HMAS Ringwood, apparently a Direction Finding Intercept Station – we can take a guess it was in the suburb of Ringwood, Melbourne? Of course HMAS Ringwood doesn't appear in the aforementioned publications and it didn't appear in the HMAS Cerberus Chapel memorial window – so it will be a story for another day.

Pre-war and in early WW2 Direction Finding Intercept Stations were used extensively to gather information about the location of Japanese (and other foreign forces) communication stations and efforts to crack their communication codes. The codes were cracked and that is another story.

Signal Intelligence (Sigint) were so secret they were given their own special classification of "Ultra Secret" and the word "Ultra" was used as a code name for intelligence derived from interception and decoding of Japanese military and naval intelligence.

"RADIO MECHANICS" PHOTOS ON THE WEB!

Bruce (Woody) Wodetski who was a "Birdie" Radio Mechanic in the 1953-1960 era lost his photo albums during the Ash Wednesday bushfires in an event he prefers not to remember. He did manage to save some negatives, a lot taken in his Navy days. Although the negatives were over 50 years of age, Woody has printed up photographs and put them on a Web site:-

<http://s236.photobucket.com/albums/ff162/woodieau/>

Woody says they are not exactly Archibald prize winning standard but they are good enough for "I remember that" moment. He has made the site public and says to feel free to copy any you want. Woody has put names to quite a few faces, however, he would welcome names for those not already titled. If you are able to assist in this regard please contact Woody at:-

Bruce Wodetzki wodet@tpg.com.au

A "RADIO MECHANICS" PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY

In Newsletter No. 65 we floated the idea of producing a "Radio Mechanics" Photographic Gallery. Bernard (Brads) Bradley offered to compile a database of "Radio Mechanics" photographs.

We thank those of you who have taken the time and effort to submit photographs or indicate their willingness to do so. It is envisaged that this will be an on-going exercise for some time. So, please continue to support us in creating this Photographic Gallery.

The aim is to collect as many photographs of individual "Radio Mechanics" as possible in a database, together with their Full Name, Nickname and their Official Number which is a unique identifier. In the event of not knowing the Official Number, please identify the era in which the individual served.

Photographs may be emailed, mailed or on CD or DVD. If photographs etc are mailed and required to be returned it will greatly assist if the sender would kindly enclose a suitable sized stamped addressed envelope.

Please ensure adequate identification details are provided with any group photographs – it will be possible in most instances for individuals to be extracted from group photographs by cropping and enlarging techniques.

Bernard (Brads) Bradley may be contacted at:-
8 Worrigee Street, Nowra, NSW 2541
Tel. No. 02 4421 2372

Email: bbradley@exemail.com.au



BOOKS OF INTEREST

In Newsletter No. 66 we gave a review of a book titled "Tiger Territory – The Untold Story of the Royal Australian Navy in South East Asia from 1948 to 1971". However, we were later advised that the telephone number we had listed was actually a Fax Number! Our apologies and we advise that:-

Copies may be purchased through the publisher:

Rosenberg Publishing, PO Box 6125,
Dural Delivery Centre, NSW 2158

Telephone: (02) 9654 1502

Fax No: (02) 9654 1338

Email: sales@rosenbergpub.com.au

Website: <http://www.rosenbergpub.com.au>

The book is comprised of 344 pages, 53 black & white photos and 9 maps.

ISBN 9781877058653, \$29.95, Paperback

CAN YOU HELP? AN ANSWER!

In Newsletter No. 66 we said that we had recently sighted an Ordinary Telegraphist Right Arm Rate Badge (amongst a collection) with the letter 'D' underneath. We asked if anyone could help identify that badge and we thank those who responded with suggestions. It was suggested that the badge could have been worn by the Direction Finding Operators, for example the 'Y' Operators who were assigned to Signals Intelligence work during WW2 and beyond. However, Dave Edwards appears to have provided the correct answer!

Dave Edwards advised that it signified the specialisation of "Data Operator" in the Electronic Data Processing Branch which existed in Navy for only a short period. Dave recalls that when he was at Tarangau in the late 1960s and those operators worked in the Electronic Data Processing (EDP) building. Further, Dave added that he understood the EDP Branch was converted to civilian staffing in the early 1970s.

We are aware that RAN personnel records ceased being hand written and became EDP records as from 1st February, 1970.

Now, in Newsletter No. 66 we remarked, incorrectly, that during WW2 that a 'C' under an Ordinary Telegraphists Badge denoted the Rating of Coder. Our memory had played tricks on us – the 'C' was actually located under the "Crossed Flags" of a Signaller's Right Arm Rate Badge! Sorry, and thanks to Barry Lemmon for having pointed out our error.

AUSTRALIA'S WARS

- **Sudan**, March to June, 1885
- **South African War (Boer War)**, 1899-1902
- **China** (Boxer Rebellion), 1900-01
- **World War I**, 1914-18
- **Russia**, 1919-20
- **World War II**, 1939-45
- **Occupation of Japan**, 1946-51
- **Korean War**, 1950-53
- **Malayan Emergency**, 1950-60
- **Indonesian Confrontation**, 1963-66
- **Vietnam War**, 1962-75
- **First Gulf War**, 1990-91
- **The Second Gulf War**, 1990-91
- **Afghanistan**, 2001-02, 2005-08
- **Peacekeeping**, 1947 to present.

Source: Australian War Memorial



NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

We would appreciate learning of your Email address and any subsequent changes. Our current Email listing contains 310 addresses, whereas our Mailout List currently contains 612 addresses. So, please advise John Saywell of your current Email address/update.

John's contact details are shown at the newsletter header and in the organisation contact details at the end of this newsletter.

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